The Nature Conservancy is soliciting proposals to develop and implement living shoreline projects in New Jersey as a nature-based solution to the erosion of tidal shorelines. As an alternative to addressing shoreline erosion using rigid vertical structures such as bulkheads and seawalls, living shorelines help attenuate wave energy and reduce erosion while maintaining the natural shoreline gradient and maintaining or enhancing nearshore habitat. This is accomplished through the strategic placement of such elements as sand, native plants, rock, and pre-cast modular structures.

We invite non-profit organizations, community & homeowners associations, academic institutions, local governments, private landowners, and consulting firms to submit proposals for funding.

- Eligible activities include design, permitting or construction of NJ living shoreline projects
- The deadline for proposals is Friday, October 18, 2019
- Explore upcoming trainings and other resources at nature.org/njlivingshores
I. **Grant Program Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/04/19</td>
<td>Release of this Invitation for Proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/19/19</td>
<td>Webinar about this Invitation for Proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/18/19</td>
<td>Proposals due to TNC via email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/01/19</td>
<td>Notification of awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/02/19</td>
<td>Grant agreements signed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/01/20</td>
<td>All TNC-funded activities completed and funds spent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/15/20</td>
<td>Final narrative and financial reports due to TNC</td>
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</tbody>
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II. **Introduction & Overview**

The Nature Conservancy is soliciting proposals to develop and implement living shoreline projects in New Jersey as a nature-based solution to the erosion of tidal shorelines. As an alternative to addressing shoreline erosion using rigid vertical structures such as bulkheads and seawalls, living shorelines help attenuate wave energy and reduce erosion while maintaining the natural shoreline gradient and maintaining or enhancing nearshore habitat (e.g., tidal marsh, shellfish, beach, upland forest or shrubland). This is accomplished through the strategic placement of such elements as sand, native plants, rock, and pre-cast modular structures. Note: living shorelines do not address erosion that is caused by wind (e.g., wind-blown sand beaches).

We invite non-profit organizations, community & homeowners associations, academic institutions, local governments, private landowners*, and consulting firms to submit proposals for funding.

* Note that, due to the laws governing nonprofit organizations, grants to private landowners cannot exceed $10,000.

Despite wider acceptance in neighboring states and early successes here, living shorelines remain at the “early-adopter” stage of innovation in New Jersey. In addition to financial support, TNC is supporting the development of local expertise in living shorelines. Therefore, through this program, TNC is offering technical assistance to “de-mystify” the process, encourage new partnerships, and help plan and implement projects.

The most highly scored proposals will be for:

- Shorelines with documented erosion (via a time-series of aerial or ground-level photography, on-the-ground measurements, exposed tree roots, etc.)
- Areas where built infrastructure (roads, boat ramps, etc.) or natural infrastructure (critical habitat, salt marsh, etc.) would be damaged from continued erosion at the site
- Advanced planning can be demonstrated by one or more of the following: matching funds, project is part of a larger plan, and Restoration Explorer has been used to perform an initial evaluation of the site

While not required, additional considerations will be given to projects that include:

- Social equity focus (e.g. partnering with a group that works with low-income families; or socially vulnerable communities). For more info on mapping social vulnerability see [https://svi.cdc.gov/](https://svi.cdc.gov/)
- Evidence of the community’s interest or commitment to the project (e.g. though volunteer involvement or demonstrated stakeholder engagement)
- Additional support from other partners or stakeholders: donated supplies, labor, etc. or cash contribution(s)
- The ability to spend TNC funds by June 15, 2020
III. Eligible Activities

Eligible activities under this program include:

- *Design* of a living shoreline that reduces erosion of a natural coastal shoreline.
- *Permitting* of a designed* living shoreline that reduces erosion of a natural coastal shoreline.
- *Installation* of a living shoreline project, including the cost of supplies, labor, and equipment that reduces erosion of a natural coastal shoreline.

*To be eligible, designs must meet NJDEP requirements for permit applications.

Post-construction monitoring of the project is not eligible for this funding opportunity.

Living shoreline project types can be either natural (non-structural) or hybrid (sills, breakwaters) and can include soft elements (plantings, sand fill, coconut-fiber products, shell bags, etc.), hard elements (rock, pre-cast structures), and geo-textiles. Projects should be designed with the dual goal of erosion reduction and habitat enhancement. For applicants who are not conservation organizations, we strongly recommend that you consult and, where possible, enter into a partnership with a conservation organization or natural-resource agency to ensure the project is designed to maintain or enhance the ecological integrity of the site and its vicinity.

Funding requests can range from **$10,000 to $50,000**.

If you do not currently have a project that would fall under these eligible activities but are interested in identifying a living shoreline project in your area, or would like feedback on your proposed project, email Bill Shadel, TNC’s Coastal Projects Manager (william.shadel@tnc.org) for free technical assistance.

IV. Proposal and Award Process

The deadline for proposal packages is **11:59pm EDT, Friday, October 18, 2019**. The proposal package must be submitted via e-mail to william.shadel@tnc.org. Notification of awards will be sent out via e-mail by Friday, November 1, 2019. All grant funds must be spent by and all grant-funded activities must be completed by December 1, 2020; a final report narrative and funds accounting must be submitted by December 15, 2020.

All proposals must include the following:

- Contact Information: Name, Title, Organization, Mailing Address, E-mail/website
- Amount requested from TNC
- Detailed Project Budget
  - Labor, Materials, Subcontractors (e.g., survey, assessment, design, build), Overhead etc.
  - In addition to funds requested from TNC, this should include, as applicable, funds from other sources and in-kind services or materials (Note that no cash or in-kind match contributions are required)
- Photos of the project site
- Aerial photo of the project vicinity (e.g., screen shots of Google Earth)
- A support letter for the project signed by the property owner
- A description of the project (not to exceed 2 pages); including demonstrated need, expected project outcomes, visibility, community involvement, etc.
- If requesting funds for design:
  - A conceptual sketch of the intended project
  - Name of design contractors under consideration, if applicable
  - Detailed cost and schedule estimates for design process
  - Anticipated schedule for permitting and construction once design is completed
  - List of potential funding sources for permitting and construction, if known
- If requesting funds for permitting:
• Completed design plans or status of design
• List of required permits
• Status of permitting activities to date, deadline for obtaining permits
• Schedule for construction once permits are granted
• List of potential funding sources for construction, if known

• If requesting funds for construction:
  • Status of permits; completed design plans or status of design
  • Schedule for construction
  • Itemized construction budget
  • List of construction activities and materials to be funded
  • Timeline for local procurement or bidding process, if applicable
  • Brief description of intended post-construction project stewardship (e.g., monitoring, maintenance)

V. Project Deliverables

Upon completion of the TNC-funded activities as part of this grant, the grant recipient must send a brief, final report outlining project details and outcomes. The deadline for project deliverables will be negotiated as part of a grant agreement between the grant recipient and TNC. Examples of deliverable that will be included with a final report include:

• Final design
• Copy of permit applications or final permits, as applicable
• Photos of project construction, invoice for materials, etc.
• Summary of project costs
• Summary of lessons learned

VI. Sharing Project Successes & Lessons Learned

In addition to final reports, grantees will be required to share project successes and lessons learned with the wider community of coastal stakeholders in New Jersey through one of several ways, to be negotiated during grant agreement. Possible examples include:

• Presentation of the project in a webinar
• Presentation of the project at an in-person workshop
• Participation in short online videos or case studies
• Feature of the project in print or online (community resource guide, case study fact sheets)

For updates and announcements, including responses to questions during the proposal period, please visit: www.nature.org/njlivingshorelines

An informational webinar for the grant program will take place on September 19, 2019, at 10:00 am.

Click here to register